

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 615

Introduced by Senator Oropeza

February 22, 2007

An act to add Section 4410 to the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 128345 of, and to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560) to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to pharmacy technicians.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 615, as amended, Oropeza. Pharmacy technicians: scholarship and loan repayment program.

(1) Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of pharmacy technicians by the California State Board of Pharmacy. Existing law authorizes the imposition of an annual license renewal fee upon pharmacies and a biennial license renewal fee upon pharmacy technicians.

This bill would require the board to collect an additional fee of \$10 at the time a pharmacy license or pharmacy technician license is renewed to be deposited in the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Health Professions Education Foundation to implement specified loan repayment programs for nurses, mental health service providers, and physicians.

Existing law establishes in the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program to provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy students and to repay qualifying educational

loans of pharmacists who agree to serve in areas of the state where unmet priority needs exist, as specified. Existing law requires the office to administer the program utilizing the same general guidelines applicable to specified federal programs, with the exception that no matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

This bill would establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program to provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy technician students and to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacy technicians who agree to serve in areas of the state where unmet priority needs exist, as specified. The bill would require the Health Professions Education Foundation to administer this program in the same manner as the program for pharmacists, including that no matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

(3) Existing law establishes the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund in the State Treasury, and requires that the moneys in the fund be available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of implementing the program. Existing law provides that the program shall be implemented only to the extent that sufficient moneys are available in the fund.

This bill would establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund, under the same terms and conditions, for purposes of implementing the program established by the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4410 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 4410. At the time a pharmacy license is renewed pursuant to
4 subdivision (a) of Section 4110 or a pharmacy technician license
5 is renewed pursuant to subdivision (r) of Section 4400, the board
6 shall collect an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) at the time of
7 renewal for the sole purpose of funding the California Pharmacy
8 Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program established
9 pursuant to Article 3 6 (commencing with Section ~~128199~~) *128560*)
10 of Chapter 3 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety

1 Code. The fee submitted pursuant to this section shall be paid into
2 the State Treasury and credited to the California Pharmacy
3 Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund
4 established pursuant to Section 128199.5 of the Health and Safety
5 Code.

6 SEC. 2. Section 128345 of the Health and Safety Code is
7 amended to read:

8 128345. The Health Professions Education Foundation may
9 do any of the following:

10 (a) Solicit and receive funds from business, industry,
11 foundations, and other private or public sources for the purpose
12 of providing financial assistance in the form of scholarships or
13 loans to African-American students, Native American students,
14 Hispanic-American students, and other students from
15 underrepresented groups. These funds shall be expended by the
16 office after transfer to the Health Professions Education Fund,
17 created pursuant to Section 128355.

18 (b) Recommend to the director the disbursement of private
19 sector moneys deposited in the Health Professions Education Fund
20 to students from underrepresented groups accepted to or enrolled
21 in schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health
22 professions in the form of loans or scholarships.

23 (c) Recommend to the director a standard contractual agreement
24 to be signed by the director and any participating student, that
25 would require a period of obligated professional service in the
26 areas in California designated by the commission as deficient in
27 primary care services. The agreement shall include a clause
28 entitling the state to recover the funds awarded plus the maximum
29 allowable interest for failure to begin or complete the service
30 obligation.

31 (d) Develop criteria for evaluating the likelihood that applicants
32 for scholarships or loans would remain to practice their profession
33 in designated areas deficient in primary care services.

34 (e) Develop application forms, which shall be disseminated to
35 students from underrepresented groups interested in applying for
36 scholarships or loans.

37 (f) Encourage private sector institutions, including hospitals,
38 community clinics, and other health agencies to identify and
39 provide educational experiences to students from underrepresented

1 groups who are potential applicants to schools of medicine,
2 dentistry, nursing, or other health professions.

3 (g) Prepare and submit an annual report to the office
4 documenting the amount of money solicited from the private sector,
5 the number of scholarships and loans awarded, the enrollment
6 levels of students from underrepresented groups in schools of
7 medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other health professions, and the
8 projected need for scholarships and loans in the future.

9 (h) Recommend to the director that a portion of the funds
10 solicited from the private sector be used for the administrative
11 requirements of the foundation.

12 (i) Implement the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan
13 Repayment Program and the Volunteer Physician Program, as
14 provided under Article 5 (commencing with Section 128550).

15 (j) Administer the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship
16 and Loan Repayment Program, as provided under Article 6
17 (commencing with Section 128560).

18 SEC. 3. Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560) is added
19 to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety
20 Code, to read:

21
22 Article 6. California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and
23 Loan Repayment Program
24

25 128560. (a) (1) There is hereby established within the Health
26 Professions ~~and Education Foundation~~ the California Pharmacy
27 Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program.

28 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to pay for the
29 educational expenses of pharmacy technician school students and
30 to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacy technicians who
31 agree to participate in designated medically underserved areas as
32 provided in this section.

33 (b) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall
34 administer the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and
35 Loan Repayment Program utilizing the same general guidelines
36 applicable to the federal National Health Service Corps Scholarship
37 Program established pursuant to Section 254 *l* of Title 42 of the
38 United States Code and the National Health Service Corps Loan
39 Repayment Program established pursuant to Section 254 *l*-1 of
40 Title 42 of the United States Code, except as follows:

1 (1) A pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician student shall
2 be eligible to participate in the program if he or she agrees to
3 provide pharmacy technician services in a practice site located in
4 areas of the state where unmet priority needs for primary care
5 family physicians exist as determined by the Health Workforce
6 Policy Commission.

7 (2) No matching funds shall be required from any entity in the
8 practice site area.

9 (c) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that
10 sufficient moneys are available in the California Pharmacy
11 Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund to
12 administer the program.

13 128561. The California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and
14 Loan Repayment Program Fund is hereby established in the State
15 Treasury. Revenues from the ~~payments made~~ *fees collected*
16 pursuant to Section 4410 of the Business and Professions Code,
17 as well as any other private or public funds made available for
18 purposes of the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and
19 Loan Repayment Program, shall be deposited into the fund. Upon
20 appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be
21 available for expenditure by the Health Professions Education
22 Foundation for purposes of implementing the California Pharmacy
23 Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program pursuant
24 to this article. The Health Professions Education Foundation shall
25 be under no obligation to administer a program under this article
26 until sufficient moneys have been accumulated in the fund and
27 appropriated to the foundation by the Legislature.